

**Contact:** County Clerk Floyd Jones  
**Phone:** 770-305-5102  
**Email:** [fjones@fayettecountyga.gov](mailto:fjones@fayettecountyga.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Fayette County Answers Questions Related to the Core Infrastructure SPLOST**

**Fayette County, Georgia, July 26, 2013** – In a continued effort to address any questions or concerns that Fayette residents have regarding the Core Infrastructure SPLOST, the Fayette County Board of Commissioners has requested that all questions and subsequent answers be given to the news media.

The county government has created a special email address for citizens to ask questions or express opinions on the Core Infrastructure SPLOST. Citizens can communicate with the county staff on projects at [stormwaterinput@fayettecountyga.gov](mailto:stormwaterinput@fayettecountyga.gov).

The county will have a final public hearing on their final stormwater project recommendations at the Board of Commissioners' meeting on August 29. The list of projects is available on the county web site at [www.fayettecountyga.gov](http://www.fayettecountyga.gov).

Questions and comments will be accepted up to the date of the actual vote on the Core Infrastructure SPLOST referendum.

Please see the questions given to date.

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

#### **Fayette County Draft Core Infrastructure SPLOST 2013 Draft for Public Comment**

Environmental Management and Public Works departments have received questions concerning the Draft Core Infrastructure SPLOST 2013 list released by Fayette County. Below are answers to questions we have received to date. Environmental Management will continue to update our SPLOST Question with Answer link on the Fayette County web site as we receive new questions.

1. Does the county have a Stormwater Master Plan?

**Fayette County's stormwater planning is on-going and the Stormwater Master Plan continues to be developed and refined. Planning-level conceptual analyses for each project proposed incorporates future-flood condition models to evaluate upstream and downstream impacts; along with the county's street design standards and specifications; county and state safe dams rules; and sound engineering practices.**

2. How can you propose projects without knowing the upstream and downstream impacts of the proposed replacements?

**The county hired Jacobs Engineering, a third-party engineering firm specializing in stormwater construction design and Category I and II projects include design costs using environmental, hydrologic and hydraulic analyses appropriate for culvert repairs, replacements and upgrades to prohibit negative impacts to upstream and downstream properties.**

**Category II projects' analysis provides adequate passage of stormwater from large rain events (a 100-year storm for major roads and a 25-year storm event for local roads) and provides energy dissipation to alleviate downstream erosion. Where over 100 acres drain to the stormwater pipe, floodplain modeling will be utilized to assess watershed impacts. For drainage basins less than 100**

acres, standard hydrology was and will be further utilized to determine the effects of the system on the watershed.

**We will constantly review all elements within the watershed to evaluate any changes needing to be made to the overall project list.**

3. Why is the county proposing to replace a number of stormwater pipes that seem to be functioning correctly?

**The condition of pipes identified in the project list varies significantly. Not all projects are cited for immediate replacement with the implementation ranging from urgent to five years out. A project was included on the list if it met one or more of the following “warrants”:**

- **The pipe is in poor condition and requires replacement in the near future to avoid damage to county infrastructure;**
- **The pipe is undersized and contributes to localized flooding issues;**
- **The pipe is too short and presents a safety issue to vehicles in terms of a steep drop-off;**
- **The pipe is corrugated metal pipe, under a collector or arterial and on a stream and is exhibiting signs of exterior and/or structural deterioration; and/or,**
- **The pipe is in “fair” condition today but structural deterioration has been documented.**

4. Is consideration given to other options for pipe stabilization or reconditioning?

**Yes. Over the past few years county staff has compared costs of (and implemented a pilot study) alternatives to pipe replacement including: slip-line products, alternative materials to reinforced concrete pipe, and concrete-spinning.**

**Slip lining a pipe with steel casing and concrete-spinning, for example, can be as expensive as replacing the same pipe with concrete. The advantage to slip lining with steel casing and concrete-spinning is you can perform the work without shutting down the road.**

**Concrete spinning for smaller diameter pipes works well in cases where pipe installation is well below road grade and cost of constructing a temporary road in a one-way-in one-way out subdivision is triple the costs of the actual pipe replacement.**

**Reinforced concrete pipe under roadways often offers the best combination of longevity, cost, low risk and water quality enhancement, the project list allows for the consideration of other options to repair, enhance or replace the drainage system.**

5. What is the priority of project installation?

**Projects of similar nature/scope/cost are organized by Categories:**

**Category I projects are the top priority where construction needs to start immediately to prevent the possibility of loss of human life and/or property.**

**Category II, Tier I projects are the second priority where the repair need is “immediate” due to significant deterioration impairing its ability to function. These projects will be implemented within two years.**

**Category II Tier 2 and Category III projects are projects planned to be implemented within the next 3-5 years.**

6. Why does the list not include specific designs for each project?

**Category I and II projects include the necessary design specifics about project replacements to give accurate cost estimates for each project implementation. The county hired Jacobs Engineering, a third-party engineering firm specializing in stormwater construction design, to provide accurate estimates based on their own data analysis. Costs for specific design plan preparation are included in each cost estimate for Category I and II projects.**

**Category III projects were developed in-house using management estimates and costs of previously completed stormwater projects. The cost did not outweigh the benefit for performing detail design work before the county knows if the Core Infrastructure SPLOST funds will be approved.**

7. Why do some projects listed would require the county to work outside the county's right of way on private property?

**The current Fayette County extent-of-service includes the ability for Fayette County to conduct work within drainage easements through the use of right-of-entry agreements and other legal instruments. Work outside the right-of-way is typically restricted to situations in which it is needed in order to provide an appropriate "fix" to the problem.**

8. Why is the county proposing to perform work on dams?

**The county is responsible for three (3) dams included in the project list and each of them is under the jurisdiction of the Georgia Safe Dams Program because these dams meet their definition.**

- **Emerald Lake Dam is within county right-of-way and the county accepted ownership and maintenance responsibility for this structure in 1998 and this project brings the dam into compliance with the state's Safe Dams Program' Category I standards.**
- **Kozisek Dam is a Category I structure with some of its components dependent upon or integral with Neely Road. Fayette County is in on-going negotiations with the property owner and the Safe Dams Program to absolve Fayette County of all ownership and maintenance responsibility of the structure. The cost estimate in the Project List reflects the county's pro-rated share associated with dam removal and road reconstruction. Fayette County is responsible to safely pass the flows associated with the perennial stream under the road, and the cost to do so is reflected in the estimate.**
- **Longview Dam (AKA Margaret Phillips Lake Dam) is a Category I structure within the right-of-way of Longview Road. Similar to Emerald Lake Dam, and this project brings the dam into compliance with the state's Safe Dams Program' Category I standards. Repairing the dam is contingent upon the upstream lake being deeded to Fayette County for use as a passive park and/or environmentally protected area.**

9. I thought the Core Infrastructure SPLOST portion originally proposed was around \$20 million dollars. The published list is for \$16.8. What becomes of the overpayment?"

**Fayette County's share of the SPLOST revenue, as promised, will only be for the \$16.8 million dollars of projects listed. Funds beyond that amount will be reallocated to the cities to aid them in completing their projects on their core infrastructure project lists.**

10. Under Category IV, equipment and professional services are listed. Why is the county proposing to purchase new equipment when they could use existing road department equipment? What will "professional services" monies be used for?

**The equipment will enhance our productivity and our efficiency. The project list includes the purchase of five pieces of equipment that would extend Public Work's existing special use equipment capabilities:**

**Vac-Con Jet Trailer pulled by a Crew Cab pick-up truck - designed specifically to remove mud, leaves, gravel and other debris from manholes, catch basins, culverts and similar structures of any size. Without this equipment the work is slow, labor intensive, and very limited in its ability to achieve getting the system to properly function.**

**Dump truck, trailer and mini excavator - equipment used for small pipe replacement and minor grading work in which the county's other equipment is too large for effective use.**

11. What's the implementation approach? How will the differing departments work together?

**Although specific roles and responsibilities may change over time, this is a summary of key responsibilities by department for implementing the listed Core Infrastructure SPLOST projects:**

***Engineering Department* – develops project from concept through final design (some in-house or third-party engineers) with help from Environmental Management; coordinates utilities; manages permitting, right-of-way, and traffic control issues; provide updated cost estimates; and work with Purchasing Department on procurement of professional services, materials and rental equipment.**

***Road Department*** – performs in-house field work/construction on select projects using county labor; primarily responsible for project and construction oversight; existing equipment will be used when available and feasible.

***Environmental Management*** – responsible for overall stormwater program management; coordinates with citizens on progress; defines Stormwater Extent of Service and Level of Service; establishes minimum design standards; prioritize project development in conjunction with resources and available funding; develops concepts; and has final approval authority on design and acceptance of field work.

**Consultants** – third-party contractors will be used for projects that are beyond the Road Department's capabilities or for scheduling reasons. Coordination among all three Departments will be on-going to optimize project schedules and evaluate alternatives, cost estimates, bids, proposals, etc.

If the Core Infrastructure SPLOST referendum passes in November, residents in the unincorporated county will not have to pay annual stormwater fees for the following four years. The collection of the tax would end once the budgeted funds are collected or at the close of the second year whichever comes first.

Hard copies of the county's 181 stormwater projects on the Core Infrastructure SPLOST list are available for review at the Fayette County's administration building in suite 100 and the Fayette library, Peachtree City's library and City Hall, Fayetteville's City Hall and Tyrone's library and Town Hall.

###